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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1 to 22 (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) A file server including

a common set of storage elements;

at least a pair of nodes disposed in said file server, each of said nodes being connected to said common set of storage elements and including a processor and a memory so as to be capable of processing file server commands for said common set of storage elements;

at least one inter-node connectivity element coupled to said nodes and disposed to communicate with at least another pair of nodes disposed in another file server; and

a connection for coupling said file server commands to said nodes.

24. (Original) A file server as in claim 23, wherein each of said pair of nodes are disposed to failover to each other.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Original) A file server as in claim 23, wherein

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each of said storage elements corresponds to one node of said pair;  
each of said storage elements is coupled to both nodes of said pair;  
whereby both nodes of said pair are equally capable of controlling said storage elements.

27. (Original) A file server as in claim 23, wherein said connectivity element includes a NUMA network.

28. (Original) A file server as in claim 23, wherein scaling for a file server system that includes said file server can be achieved by coupling said pair of nodes to another pair of nodes in another file server through said inter-node connectivity element

29. (Previously Presented) A file server as in claim 23, wherein said common set of storage elements includes a RAID storage system.

30. (Original) A file server as in claim 23,  
wherein said pair of nodes includes a first node and a second node;  
wherein when said file server commands are directed to said first node, said file server commands are executed at said first node, and a copy of said file server commands are stored at said second node; and

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wherein when said file server commands are directed to said second node, said file server commands are executed at said second node, and a copy of said file server commands are stored at said first node.

31. (Original) A file server as in claim 30,

wherein when said file server commands are directed to said first node and said first node is inoperable, said file server commands are executed at said second node; and

wherein when said file server commands are directed to said second node and said second node is inoperable, said file server commands are executed at said first node.

32. (Original) A file server as in claim 23,

wherein said pair of nodes includes a first node and a second node;

wherein said first node responds to said file server commands while said second node records said file server commands; and

wherein said pair of nodes are disposed to failover from said first node to said second node.

33. (Original) A file server as in claim 23,

wherein said pair of nodes includes a first node and a second node;

wherein said first node responds to a first one of said file server commands while said second node records said first one of said file server commands;

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wherein said second node responds to a second one of said file server commands while said first node records said second one of file server commands; and  
said pair of nodes are disposed to failover from said first node to said second node.

34. (Original) A file server as in claim 23,  
wherein said pair of nodes includes a first node and a second node;  
wherein said first node controls said storage elements in response to said file server commands while said second node is coupled to said storage elements and does not control said storage elements in response to said file server commands.

35. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a file server including  
operating at least a pair of nodes disposed in said file server, each of said nodes being connected to a common set of storage elements and including a processor and a memory so as to be capable of processing file server commands for said common set of storage elements;  
communicating with at least another pair of ~~other~~ nodes in at least another one ~~other~~ file server through at least one inter-node connectivity element coupled to said nodes; and  
coupling said file server commands to said nodes.

36. (Original) A method of operating a file server as in claim 35, wherein each of said pair of nodes are disposed to failover to each other.

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37. (Cancelled)

38. (Original) A method of operating a file server as in claim 35, wherein each of said storage elements corresponds to one node of said pair; each of said storage elements is coupled to both nodes of said pair; whereby both nodes in said pair are equally capable of controlling said storage elements.

39. (Original) A method of operating a file server as in claim 35, wherein said connectivity element includes a NUMA network.

40. (Original) A method of operating a file server as in claim 35, wherein scaling for a file server system that includes said file server can be achieved by coupling said pair of nodes to another pair of nodes in another file server through said inter-node connectivity element

41. (Original) A method of operating a file server as in claim 35, wherein said common set of storage elements includes a RAID storage system.

42. (Original) A method of operating a file server as in claim 35, wherein said pair of nodes includes a first node and a second node;

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wherein when said file server commands are directed to said first node, said file server commands are executed at said first node, and a copy of said file server commands are stored at said second node; and

wherein when said file server commands are directed to said second node, said file server commands are executed at said second node, and a copy of said file server commands are stored at said first node.

43. (Original) A method of operating a file server as in claim 42,

wherein when said file server commands are directed to said first node and said first node is inoperable, said file server commands are executed at said second node; and

wherein when said file server commands are directed to said second node and said second node is inoperable, said file server commands are executed at said first node.

44. (Original) A method of operating a file server as in claim 35,

wherein said pair of nodes includes a first node and a second node;

wherein said first node responds to said file server commands while said second node records said file server commands; and

wherein said pair of nodes are disposed to failover from said first node to said second node.

45. (Original) A method of operating a file server as in claim 35,

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wherein said pair of nodes includes a first node and a second node;

wherein said first node responds to a first one of said file server commands while said second node records said first one of said file server commands;

wherein said second node responds to a second one of said file server commands while said first node records said second one of file server commands; and

said pair of nodes are disposed to failover from said first node to said second node.

46. (Original) A method of operating a file server as in claim 35,

wherein said pair of nodes includes a first node and a second node;

wherein said first node controls said storage elements in response to said file server commands while said second node is coupled to said storage elements and does not control said storage elements in response to said file server commands.

47. (Currently Amended) A memory storing information including instructions, the instructions executable by a processor to operate a file server, the instructions comprising:

operating at least a pair of nodes disposed in said file server, each of said nodes being connected to a common set of storage elements and including a processor and a memory so as to be capable of processing file server commands for said common set of storage elements;

communicating with at least another pair of ~~other~~ nodes in at least another one ~~other~~ file server through at least one inter-node connectivity element coupled to said nodes; and

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coupling said file server commands to said nodes.

48. (Previously Presented) A memory as in claim 47, wherein each of said pair of nodes are disposed to failover to each other.

49. (Cancelled)

50. (Previously Presented) A memory as in claim 47, wherein  
each of said storage elements corresponds to one node of said pair;  
each of said storage elements is coupled to both nodes of said pair;  
whereby both nodes in said pair are equally capable of controlling said storage elements.

51. (Previously Presented) A memory as in claim 47, wherein said connectivity element includes a NUMA network.

52. (Previously Presented) A memory as in claim 47, wherein scaling for a file server system that includes said file server can be achieved by coupling said pair of nodes to another pair of nodes in another file server through said inter-node connectivity element



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53. (Previously Presented) A memory as in claim 47, wherein said common set of storage elements includes a RAID storage system.

54. (Previously Presented) A memory as in claim 47,  
wherein said pair of nodes includes a first node and a second node;  
wherein when said file server commands are directed to said first node, said file server commands are executed at said first node, and a copy of said file server commands are stored at said second node; and

wherein when said file server commands are directed to said second node, said file server commands are executed at said second node, and a copy of said file server commands are stored at said first node.

55. (Previously Presented) A memory as in claim 54,  
wherein when said file server commands are directed to said first node and said first node is inoperable, said file server commands are executed at said second node; and  
wherein when said file server commands are directed to said second node and said second node is inoperable, said file server commands are executed at said first node.

56. (Previously Presented) A memory as in claim 47,  
wherein said pair of nodes includes a first node and a second node;

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wherein said first node responds to said file server commands while said second node records said file server commands; and

wherein said pair of nodes are disposed to failover from said first node to said second node.

57. (Previously Presented) A memory as in claim 47,

wherein said pair of nodes includes a first node and a second node;

wherein said first node responds to a first one of said file server commands while said second node records said first one of said file server commands;

wherein said second node responds to a second one of said file server commands while said first node records said second one of file server commands; and

said pair of nodes are disposed to failover from said first node to said second node.

58. (Previously Presented) A memory as in claim 47,

wherein said pair of nodes includes a first node and a second node;

wherein said first node controls said storage elements in response to said file server commands while said second node is coupled to said storage elements and does not control said storage elements in response to said file server commands.